



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PRESIDENT DECLARES LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

FREDERICK, MD – As a result of the impact of a severe winter storm with blizzard conditions, President Jan Gardner of the Frederick Board of County Commissioners today declared a Local State of Emergency in Frederick County, Maryland. The order authorizes agencies to activate the County's Emergency Operations Plans and take such actions as are necessary to protect lives during this emergency.

President Gardner signed the order under the authority granted her by Title 14-111 of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

President Gardner said, "Coming in the wake of a storm with record snowfall accumulations, this storm with blizzard conditions has challenged our public resources to a critical point. Additional snowfall and exceedingly high winds have brought our county to a virtual standstill today. As our utmost concern is for the safety and well being of the citizens of Frederick County, this emergency declaration will facilitate our response and the deployment and sharing of resources as we work to recover from one of the worst winter storms in the history of our County."

In order to protect the lives of citizens and facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles, the order specifies that until further notice, all motor vehicles ARE RESTRICTED from operating on any County owned or maintained road unless such vehicles are emergency vehicles, vehicles providing essential services responding to the state of emergency, or individuals with medical or related emergencies.

Frederick County Government offices and facilities will be closed on Thursday, February 11, and county officials encourage other agencies to be closed in order to restrict travel on county roads.

(more)

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County officials emphasize that in the case of an emergency, citizens should call 911 and not travel in personal vehicles. Citizens should home and stay off the roads.

Director Jack Markey of the Division of Emergency Management and agencies such as the Division of Public Works, Office of Highway Operations; Sheriff's Office; Division of Fire & Rescue; Emergency Communications, and others advised President Gardner earlier today that an emergency and/or disaster situation existed in the County. They further informed her that the impact and severity of the winter storm had exceeded the normal capacity and capability of the County to respond.

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